



# St. Mary's Messenger

Vol. 1, No. 3

April 2011

## *Will you proclaim your faith in Jesus Christ by Word and Example?*

As we have passed the mid-point in the season of Lent I ponder the 3<sup>rd</sup> "Will you..." question of our Baptismal Covenant, that question about "proclaiming" our faith in Jesus Christ "...by word and example." This is **the** question in relation to our growing into something more than what we are today.

The Gospels are the spoken proclamation that has been written down. They are the story of the Kingdom of God coming near in the lives of real people. They were told in order that the life of Jesus would not be forgotten. That story has touched millions of lives over the centuries just as it has touched each one of us at St Mary's - or we would not bother to be present in community on Sunday. It is for this very reason, that it has touched us deeply, that we have a responsibility to share that story as it has impacted our lives. I don't mean that we have to "get" in someone's face, or stand on a street corner; you don't even have to get up on Sunday and give your testimony - although that might be a good thing to do. But we are called in our Baptismal Covenant to share the Good News with the rest of the world, and each of us have **promised** time and time again to do just that - but we don't have to do it alone. We have **God's** help. We are not promised that it will be easy, (nothing worthwhile ever is). What we do have is the promise of not having to do it alone. We have the promise that God will take what we offer and make it enough. But we do have to offer, we do have to make the effort, we do have to speak a word to those around us with courage and confidence.

Tom Long in his book *Testimony* uses the story about the loaves and fishes to make this point. You remember the story from Matthew 14:14-21? The disciples wanted to send the crowd away to find something to eat, but Jesus told them (tells us) to give them something to eat (a word about the Gospel). The disciples found a meager 5 loaves and two fish which Jesus blessed, and it became so much more than enough. Tom Long said that "...none of us has what it takes to feed other people and that goes for testimony too." Then he goes on to say "...God takes what we offer, takes our fragments and pieces and bits of experience and knowledge, and makes them sufficient, even abundant...faith has been spread by the honest talk of ordinary Christians saying the best we can what we know and believe."

This is what the question, "**Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?**", is all about. It's not about being the next Billy Graham; it's about being who you are. It's about allowing God to take what we have, what we offer and making it enough to feed one person who is hungry for God's redeeming Word that was made flesh.

May God bless each of us as we strive to make the sacrifice of speech, of proclamation, of testimony for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Peace,  
*Fr. Reid*

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**Trash Pick-Up**

Saturday, April 2

8am

Meet at Guyco on Highway 190  
Brats BBQ follows at church

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# *Dixie Sewell: St. Mary's "Queen for a Day"!*

Dixie Sewell's reception was a wonderful time for friends and family to gather together to reminence, laugh, and re-establish ties. Heartwarming stories were shared (Dixie and L.E. Davis dancing the "light fantastic" at the Officer Club...Dixie chasing (son) John with a switch from a plum tree.....serving "refreshments" on the EYG bus to Big Bend.....going to high school in Buda....helping Fr. Herst down from on top of the St. Mary's desk (where he was working) after the 1957 flood...

In mid-April Dixie will leave us and move in with her son, Roy, who lives in Alabama. Who knows what high-jinx she will get into there??

Dixie, you have been a good friend, mentor, and mother. St. Mary's will continue to keep you in our hearts and prayers. Come back and visit us soon!



**Dixie's Delights (Sandwich Spread)**

- 16oz Creme Cheese (softened)
- 2 small cans chopped black olives
- 1/2 c toast chopped pecans

Mix and spread on bread. **YUM!**

# Jan's Corner...

## Living in the Moment

As we read about the devastating events in Japan, our hearts go out to the people and their losses. It is human nature when we hear of such devastation to also fear that such horror could happen to us as well. Life is uncertain, the future is unknown, and it is scary to know that we really have very little control.

My training as a therapist is in cognitive behavioral therapy which focuses on it is not so much what happens that causes our emotional reactions, but rather what we THINK about what happens.....and, that if we can change our thinking we can also change our reactions. A natural reaction to the Japan disaster is to worry that something similar could happen to us or to those we love. If we let ourselves THINK that disaster is inevitable, then we live a life of fear. If, instead, we let ourselves think that disaster is a possibility and plan for that possibility to the best we can, we feel more in control.

I was raised in "tornado alley", Wichita, Falls, Texas, and I recall vividly having two tornadoes while I lived there. My parents didn't know about cognitive behavioral therapy, but they actually did exactly what the experts recommend. They planned for the possibility of a tornado and instructed my brother and me on what we were to do in the event one happened. A safety plan.

Safety plans help us feel prepared and somewhat in control. Fortunately, we probably don't have much chance of having earthquakes in Texas, but we do have tornadoes. Develop a safety plan to include where you would go during a disaster; where you would meet if separated from family; and have a disaster supply kit available. Just as important as developing a safety plan is to discuss it with your family, especially the children. Children feel safer if they believe their parents, or the adults they love, are in control, and this includes THINKING that their parents have a plan to protect them even during a natural disaster.

With all that said, the main point I want to get across in this article is the title: Living in the Moment. The Japan earthquake should reinforce to us all that every moment is precious, that all our planning "for tomorrow" may never happen. But, watch and enjoy the simple things in life.....our magnificent Texas sunsets, the beauty of spring blossoming each day, laughing with people we love.....and, opening our hearts to the beauty of God's grace.....live each day to the fullest.

*Jan Denson*

Send articles, photos, news, or classifieds to Tom and Mary at [hart76550@gmail.com](mailto:hart76550@gmail.com) Thanks!

# HAPPY GARDENING

By Phil Brown

This article deals with a little more than just when to plant. The times given are average and depend a lot on what type of weather we're having. If you purchase an Almanac, their weather predictions for our area are 81% correct.

Texas is one of the few states in the US where you can grow two crops a year for some; but not all vegetables. There are advantages over spring gardening. If you will **count back** (from chart below on ripening periods) the days from the expected first fall frost so that you plant early enough for your crops to mature, you will be rewarded greatly. I THINK the average last day of killing frost in spring in Lampasas is March 16 and in fall, November 16. Therefore CB on under the FALL column below means to **count back** from November 16<sup>th</sup>. Why garden in the fall?

- Fall produce ripens slower in cooler weather, suffering less from sunburn and scald.
- Fall vegetables also have better flavor.
- There are fewer insects and diseases in the fall.

Some crops grow better from seed, some from plants. The column below under SOURCE is my own opinion of MY source preference for various vegetables. Don't forget, that if you plant from seed or transplants, the label usually furnishes you with all the planting information you need.

Numbers in the FERTILIZER column below refer to Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Potash, in that order of what each plant "prefers". Therefore 100 lbs of 15-5-10 (or 3-1-2 as expressed in the chart below) means it has 15 lbs of Nitrogen, 5 lbs of Phosphate, and 10 lbs of Potash. The rest is filler.

## WHEN TO PLANT WHAT?

VEGETABLE	SOURCE	SPRING	FALL	FERTILIZER
Asparagus	root crowns	Feb-Mar	Nov	3-1-2
Bean	seed	Mar-Apr	CB	3-1-2
Beet	seed	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Broccoli	plants	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Brussels sprouts	plants	Feb-Mar	CB	1-1-1
Cabbage	plants	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Carrot	seed	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Cauliflower	plants	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Celery	either	Feb-Mar	CB	Unk
Chive	either	Feb-Mar	CB	Unk
Collards	plants	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Corn	seed	Mar	NO	1-1-1
Cucumber	seed	Apr-May	CB	1-2-1
Eggplant	plants	Apr-May	NO	1-2-1

VEGETABLE	SOURCE	SPRING	FALL	FERTILIZER
Garlic	button	Feb-Mar	CB	1-1-1
Kale	either	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Lettuce	either	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Okra	either	May-Jun	CB	3-1-2

Onions	plants/bulbs	Feb-Mar	CB	1-2-1
Pea, Sweet	seed	Feb-Mar	CB	1-1-1
Peppers	plants	Apr-May	CB	1-2-1
Potato	eyes	Feb-Mar	NO	1-1-1
Pumpkin	seed	Apr-May	NO	1-1-1
Radish	seed	Feb-Mar	CB	1-1-1
Spinach	seed	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Squash, Summer	seed	Apr-May	CB	1-2-1
Squash, Winter	seed	May-June	NO	1-2-1
Swiss Chard	seed	Feb-Mar	CB	3-1-2
Tomato	plants	Mar-Apr	CB	1-2-1
Turnips	seed	Feb-Mar	CB	1-1-1

### DAYS FROM PLANTING TO MATURITY (approximately)

31-59	61-79	81 or more
Beets	Broccoli	Brussels sprouts
Bush beans	Bush lima beans	Bulbing onions
Leaf lettuce	Carrots	Cabbage
Greens	Cherry tomatoes	Cantaloupe
Radishes	Cucumbers	Cauliflower
Spinach	English peas	Eggplant
Summer squash	Green onions	Garlic
	Okra	Irish Potatoes
	Peppers	Pole lima beans
	Pole snap beans	Pumpkins
	Sweet Corn	Sweet potatoes
	Swiss Chard	Tomatoes
		Watermelons
		Winter squash

### WHEN TO FERTILIZE?

I generally fertilize a week or two before planting and again when plants are mature. However, if you want the absolute “optimum” time for each vegetable, you can find it on page 213 of the Old Farmer’s 2011 Almanac; or in the Vegetable section of Neil Sperry’s Texas Gardening.

*Come experience Lent in a new way*

Every Wednesday night (until Easter) St. Mary’s wants you to come and think, talk, fellowship, and eat together at the Parish Hall. Fr. Reid holds a short service at 6pm (*really good sermons!*), and then everyone shares soup, bread, and salad in the Parish Hall (around 6:30pm). After dinner, we all participate in a discussion about our faith. This month we are exploring the idea of “prayer” - what prayer is, how to do it, when to do it, why we do it, and where we do it. You’d really be pleasantly surprised at the conversations that results. Give this program a try - at the least you’ll enjoy a free dinner...and you just might be surprised at how much fun you have!



# Libby's Columbarium News

## Changes Being Considered:

The design of our Columbarium is a great way to accommodate our needs in the present and for future additions. We have planned to use the entire front units in our original purchase, which would give us 48 niches. After thinking it through we realized that we could use the front middle unit (30 niches for now) and take care of our immediate needs. Doing this would reduce the cost by \$7,000-8000, bringing our total cost to somewhere between \$20,000 - \$21,000. This is probably a more attainable goal for us right now.

To date we have sold 11 niches and have collected about \$2,000 in donations. We will need to use 5 niches to accommodate those presently interred in our current Columbarium. The numbers could change a bit as we hear from the remaining family members on their decisions about their interred loved ones. Our mission has not changed. We are trying to be prudent about this investment and our immediate needs. A new Columbarium is certainly within our reach with this revised plan:

Construction Cost.....	\$21,000
Niches Sold (11) .....	-11,550
Donations .....	<u>- 2,000</u>
<b>Total Needed .....</b>	<b>\$7,450</b>

We need to sell 7 more niches to be able to construct our new Columbarium. Of course we can build the structure with donations if we should receive them. Our goal is to know when we can begin the construction and we were hoping to have a date by June 1 of this year. If you are thinking of making a purchase please consider doing it in the next month so we can make the new Columbarium a reality. There are only 7 slots left and we don't know when we will be offering the next phase.

## Fund Raising:

We have a small fund raising project going on right now. There are 2 sets of note cards available for purchase

- Set #1 St. Mary's Church 4 X 6 cards and envelopes ..... \$16
- Set #2 Stained Glass Windows 5 X 7 Cards with envelopes ..... \$20

We hope to add 2 more sets in the next couple of weeks, perfect little gifts for Easter baskets. There are 8 cards in each set and will be delivered to you the week after you order them. There is an order form in the Parish Hall. Get them while they last ! We do have a few more fund raising projects planned, so be looking for them to be announced.

## Special Letters

Special letters have been sent out to the families of those interred in our present Columbarium . We have received two letters back and will be following the wishes of those families. We have not found family members for a few people. If you know anything about the following names ,please contact Father Reid.

Rafaela Torres  
Isla Berdith Clay Jackson  
Minnie Hollingshead  
Albert W. Johnson, Jr.

In the event that we are unable to find relatives for these people they will be moved to the Columbarium.

## Memorial Giving

If you would like to give a gift to the new Columbarium to the glory of God of behalf of a loved one, we would certainly appreciate it. In order for the new Columbarium to be built we must raise the funds for the entire amount. Visit with Father Reid, Libby Bluntzer, Kathleen Woodby or Linda Joseph.

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## Time to Laugh....

A Texas Cowboy went to the local Baptist church and asked to join. The preacher said, "OK, but you have to pass a small Bible test first. The first Question is: 'Where was Jesus born?' The Cowboy answered, 'Longview.' The preacher said. 'Sorry...you can't join the Baptist church.'

Sooooo....he went to the non-denominational church and asked to join. The preacher said, 'We would love to have you, but you have to pass a little Bible Knowledge Test first.' Where was Jesus born?' The Cowboy said. 'Tyler.' The preacher said, 'Sorry...you can't join our church.'

Soooo....he goes to on down the street to the Episcopal Church and asks to join. The priest said, 'That's wonderful; we welcome you with open arms.' The Cowboy said, 'I don't have to pass no Bible test first?' The priest said, 'No.' The Cowboy said, 'Well then can I ask you a question?' The priest said, 'Sure.' The Cowboy said, 'Where was Jesus born ?' The preacher said, 'Palestine.' The Cowboy mumbled to himself, 'Dang it all - I knew it was somewhere up there in East Texas.'

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What about this??? **EPISCOPAL NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK** is **Tuesday, June 28, 2011**. Bishop Andy Doyle will throw the first pitch. Portions of the proceeds will benefit new initiatives of the Episcopal Church. Special pricing for us...and even better "group rates" if 20 or more go together. Teams: Rangers vs. Astros. Interested?? Let Tom and Mary know -

# RELAY FOR LIFE 2011

We had a LOT of fun this year at the Relay for Life! The evening started off with a comedy routine put on by Tom Hart, Brian Williams, Jim Halvorson, and John (?) as they attempted to erect the St. Mary's team tent. (Mary Halvorson, Kathleen Woodby and I were laughing so hard at their antics that we had trouble standing up!).

Once the tent was set up we displayed the ECW jewelry and luncheon cakes (we made a mint!! Probably won a few converts too - the jewelry and food were THAT good!).



At 6pm Bonilee Garrett, Mary Halvorson, and the other cancer survivors made the inaugural lap around the track. We cheered them on and they just kept walking (altogether we logged 85 miles that night!). Other team members who walked included Reid and Marie Morgan, Barbara Racino, Bill and Maureen Adams, Tulisha and Abbie Carson, Emily, Reagan, Cyndy, Charlotte Haynie, Judy

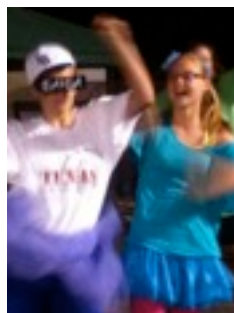
Langsford, Warren and Libby Bluntzer, Tom Hart, Victor Reed, JR McBryde, Kathleen Woodby. Later that night we lit the night up with over 50 luminaria...a lovely honor and remembrance.



Midnight was late, cold - and silly as the St. Mary's costume team won first place! Abbie "Lady Carson and Reagan "Lil Wayne" pose that no one could beat (not the 70's hippie). Thanks to some (and dumpster diving by Mary with the scavenger hunt (we COULD us shared our findings with walked...and walked (and ate, and could). About the only thing we Kickboxing" activity at 3:30am!



By dawn the Lampasas chapter of Relay for Life had worn some grooves into the track lanes, raised over \$27,000 (about \$3,000 of that came from St. Mary's). When the event was called we disassembled our spot, and high-tailed it over to the Donut Palace (where Jim, Victor, and John made so much noise that people left the surrounding tables muttering, "Those darn Episcopalians!"). We have committed already to Relay for Life 2012 - so rest up and get ready!!



GaGa" struck a even the weird alien creature or creative thinking on Tulisha's part Halvorson) we came in 2nd place have made 1st place, but one of another team). We walked...and laughed, and snoozed when we did NOT do was the "Turbo





# SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT PRAYER...

1 John 5:14-15 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him."

(from [www.epicenter.org](http://www.epicenter.org) and (from The Episcopalian Handbook)

## What is prayer?

Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words. Christian prayer is "response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit" (BCP, p. 856).

## What are the four types of prayers?

According to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP, p. 856), the four principal kinds of prayer are adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication (ACTS). Adoration means praising God for what and who God is. Confession is expressing sorrow for sins and asking God's forgiveness, mercy, and pardon. Thanksgiving is thanking God for all the blessings received and giving thanks to God in all circumstances. Supplication is asking God to provide for our needs and the needs of the world

**the search for spiritual meaning** (*Mary thought this was really thought-provoking. It is copied from [www.epicenter.org](http://www.epicenter.org)...*)

## [The Episcopal Faith](#) > [Spirituality](#)

All humans have three things in common: We're born, we live, and we die. For such simple facts, these truths raise profound questions for us.

We know about our bodies: we eat, sleep, work, and have children, for instance. We know about our feelings, about love, sorrow, joy, anger, or boredom. We form relationships with other people, we dream, we plan, we play, we get hurt, and most of the time, we take these events for granted and do what we need to do for another day.

But then sometimes something profound or miraculous or disastrous happens—like holding a baby, or falling in love, or being with someone who is dying—or some catastrophe strikes. At that moment we become aware of just how big the world is and how small we are in relation to it, and then we ask, "Why...?"

"Spirituality" describes, at least in part, that search for meaning and answers to our questions about life and death. We cannot answer them on our own, so we turn to others for help, like our friends, parents, religious leaders, or sometimes even strangers, just someone who can help make sense of life.

"Religion" is what we call the various ways in which different groups of people have found to answer these questions. The more people who have found a religion helpful and the longer they have practiced it together, the better they have organized it so that they could pass it on to others. Over time, the communities develop language, rites and ceremonies, and objects, all to express the profound experiences they have had and the truth they have found through them. The language and rites can be beautiful or frightening or confusing, yet at their core, they are still about those three simple facts: We're born, we live, and we die—Why? What difference do we make?